Inside Seequa

Vol. 1 No. 2 Seequa Computer Corporation Spring, 1984

Seequa holds Grand Opening Celebration

Seequa Chairman of the Board David Egli (left) meets with Anne Arundel County Executive James Lighthizer.

More than 250 guests, including Anne Arundel County Executive James Lighthizer, helped Seequa officially open its new 175,000-quare foot headquarters on Monday, March 5 here in Odenton.

The crowd heard brief speeches by Seequa Chairman of the Board David Egli, Seequa President David M. Gardner, County Executive Lighthizer and Linda Robinson of the state Department of Economic and Community Development. Ms. Robinson was representing Governor Hughes.

County Executive Lighthizer presented Seequa with a framed Anne Arundel County promotional poster, while Ms. Robinson gave the company a state flag. Seequa President David M. Gardner presented Anne Arundel County with a Chameleon Plus. All four speakers then joined in a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in the manufacturing area.

The Arundel Senior High School Band, under the direction of Phillip Butz, performed during the Grand Opening Celebration. The 36-member band played upbeat tunes while guests and employees sipped drinks and munched on pieces of a three-foot-by-five foot cake specially prepared for the occasion.

The cake, which was chocolate with white frosting and had the aqua blue Seequa logo on it, was prepared by Odenton resident Monica Burrows.

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A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to mark the Grand Opening. From left Seequa's Bill Mullauer, County Executive James Lighthizer, Seequa President David M. Gardner, Seequa Chairman David Egli, State Department of Economic and Community Development official Linda Robinson, and Seequa's June Johnson.

Seequa President David M. Gardner addresses crowd.

The "official" Grand Opening cake.

Part of the large crowd enjoys Grand Opening.

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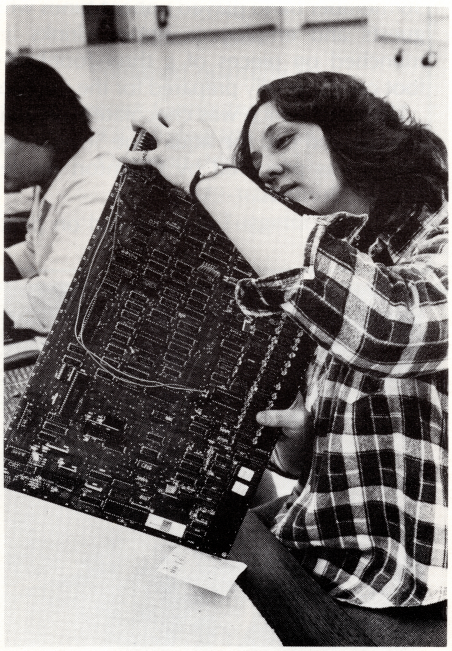
Among the attendees were Daniel Grimes, who represented Congresswoman Marjorie S. Holt (R, 4th), Anne Arundel County Council members Carole Baker and Maureen Lamb, the wife of Anne Arundel County Councilman Theodore Sophocleus, and former County Council Chairman George F. Bachman, Jr.

Several other Anne Arundel County officials attended including Jeffrey H. Koenig, Director of the Economic Development Office; Florence Beck Kurdle, Director of the Planning and Zoning Office; Russell Doupnik, Director of the Community Development Office; Gene Floyd, Director of the Community Development Office; and Paula Phillips, Executive Director of the Commission on Culture and the Arts.

The guests also included a number of stockholders, vendors, dealers, suppliers, owners of local businesses, and managers of Computers, Etc., the chain of four retail stores owned by Seequa.

Several Seequa employees helped during the Celebration. They include: Perez Mackell, Duke Brown, Dan McAllister, Phyllis Kisser, Joe Pasco, James Bridges, Zeke Conover, Don Lancaster, Pat Miller, Margaret Smith, and Alicia Dasco. Also Debbie Miller, Rena Lutynski, Lois Perdum, Patty Sputlin, Brenda McDonald, Chris Longo, Lorrita James, Bobbi Dohler, Frank Handley, Kay Fordham, Bill Mullauer, June Johnson, Jeanne Ringenbach, Jennifer Minnick, and Gail Gardner.

Seequa moved to Odenton Nov. 1. It formerly was located in an 18,000-square-foot facility in Annapolis.



Patty Aliff checks over P.C. board.

An Inside Look At . . .
Printed Circuit Boards

Inside Seequa *will feature in each issue a different department. This edition highlights Printed Circuit Boards.*

"The printed circuit boards are like the brains of a computer. It includes on it all the chips that give the computer its memory, its abilities and its functions," said Cookie Machen, Manufacturing Manager.

If P.C. Boards represent the brain of the computer, then the hard-working, detail-oriented employees who work on the boards are like surgeons. With precision and care, the employees add jumpers, make modification cuts, stuff specialized integrated circuits, install capacitators and resistors and perform other tasks.

But instead of a scalpel, the P.C. Board employees use soldering irons and other specialized instruments to complete the delicate and important job of producing finished boards.

"Basically, we have a very good group of people. They have a very good attitude and they're cooperative. It makes working with them a pleasure," said Mrs. Machen.

"The people here are very easy to work with. They don't mind switching or doing a different job. They're very cooperative and they get along with one another," adds Mary Thompson, the P.C. Board Department's line leader.

Phyllis Kisser, who solders parts to the boards, says she "enjoys the learning that I'm getting here. I really like learning the value of each of the items I'm putting into the boards."

Carla Smith's responsibility is to carefully inspect the completed boards. "When these boards go out, they have my initials on them. When a board goes out in excellent shape, it makes me feel good because I know I've done my job," she comments.

Moments later, Carla and some of the other P.C. Board Department employees gathered at Art's desk to discuss a technical question. Throughout the conversation, one could sense the teamwork and helpful spirit that has made the P.C. Board Department one of Seequa's genuine strengths.

The Department also includes: Patty Aliff, Denise Brower, Ken White, Cynthia Young, Michele Brown, Alicia Dasco, Maragaret Smith, Brenda McDonald, Priscila Arenas, Catharine Lutynski, Audrey Quinn, LaRita Janus, Sharon Hudson, and Alfreida Moore.

Seequa Spotlight

Johnson keeps sharp eye on quality

Each edition of ***Inside Seequa*** *includes a special feature about an outstanding employee. The employee is chosen by his or her supervisor in consultation with the Personnel Department.*

June Johnson has gained experience in almost every phase of production while a member of the Seequa team. She has worked in assembly, inspection, printed circuit boards, casing, and now, final testing.

"I've done almost every production job here at Seequa. But I guess you could say I enjoy final test the best. It's a good feeling to know that you can be the last person to inspect a computer before it leaves here. It's a responsibility and I enjoy it," says June.

An Annapolis resident, June says she likes her position with Seequa mostly because of "the people." She has kind words of praise for her supervisor, Chuck Hartin, whom she says "gives us respect. He doesn't treat you as if you don't know anything. He treats you as if you have knowledge of the computer."

Since joining Seequa more than one year ago, June says she's also been impressed by the down-to-earth attitude of Seequa Chairman David Egli and President David Gardner. "They don't act like bosses. I remember when we were in Annapolis, the Daves would be in there working with us. It wasn't like they were above us, or were too good to lend a hand," she says. "They welcome suggestions and like to give you challenges."

When she's not testing computers at Seequa, June enjoys crocheting pancho's, sweaters and blankets. She also enjoys spending time with her two children, Sabrina, who is seven, and Keith, who is three years old.

As for her goals here at Seequa, June comments: "To learn more and do the best I can." That attitude has helped make June one of the most valued members of the Seequa team.

June Johnson (right) tests Chameleon as her supervisor, Chuck Hartin, looks on.

Seequa blood drive a success

Seequa employees responded in outstanding fashion when the Red Cross Bloodmobile came to the company headquarters on January 13. More than 80 employees donated blood during the day-long effort.

"Seequa's participation in our efforts was exceptional," exclaimed Jeffrey Varnes, Director of the Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross. "As the donations indicate, Seequa employees showed a great deal of enthusiasm for the drive," he added.

"I would like to thank all of our employees for participating in this event. They are to be commended for taking the time to join in this effort," said Seequa Chairman David Egli.

Gardner, Egli speak at UM

Seequa Chairman David Egli and President David M. Gardner were among the featured speakers at a program about entreprenuial ventures held March 2 at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Mr. Egli and Mr. Gardner presented a slide show and discussed their experiences in founding Seequa. About 40 members of the University's Masters in Business Administration program attended the event.

The program took place only one building away from where Mr. Egli and Mr. Gardner drew up the incorporation papers for C.P.U. Incorporated, the parent company of Computers, Etc. and Seequa. That event was held at Morril Hall on June 3, 1977.

Other guest speakers included representatives from Vie de France, Dobson and Associates, Ltd., and The Susan Davis Companies.

Employees assemble Seequa XT.

Seequa XT being shipped

The Seequa XT is rolling off the assembly line.

Dealers have begun receiving shipments of the new 10-megabyte, hard disk, desktop unit that retails for $3,995.

Already, the news media is praising this exciting desktop. Computer Buyer's Guide and Handbook calls the Seequa XT "an outstanding value . . . outrageously priced . . . " Other reviewers are looking forward to getting their first peek at Seequa's newest entry into the microcomputer marketplace.

Meanwhile, in other Product News, Seequa President David M. Gardner has announced that Seequa will include two popular software programs – WordStar and SuperCalc3 – with all Chameleons, Chameleon Pluses and Seequa XT's sold through June 30.

With this limited time offer, Seequa is now the only IBM PC compatible on the market that bundles both WordStar and an intergrated spreadsheet program. Other Seequa bundled application software includes Perfect Writer, Perfect Speller, Perfect Calc, and Condor I.

Seequa 'Chameleons' launch season

Look out, Anne Arundel County women's softball teams!

The hard-fighting, hard-charging Seequa "Chameleons" are getting ready to take the league by storm!

The Chameleons, led by team manager Debbie White, will begin its season in May and conclude in July. The Chameleons' home field is at an athletic area near the corner of Harmans Road and Dorsey Road. The starting time for the games will be 6:30 p.m.

More information about opponents and game dates will be distributed to employees when it becomes available.

The Chameleons roster includes: Gail Gardner, Debbie Miller, Kriss Welsh, Christine Longo, Audrey Quinn, Sharon Coleman, Cynthia Pinkney, Rena Lutynski, Brenda Shepp, Alfreida Moore, Patricia Aliff, Phyllis Kisser, Denise Brower, Lis Parsons, Jeanne Ringenbach, Mary Kay Altman, Sue Christensen, Nancy Curry and Theresa Berry.

The Chameleon's Assistant Manager is Chris Ridgely. Coaches include Dale Higgins, Rob Fuggetta and Dale Spencer. Uniforms and equipment are being provided by Seequa.

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Joy Hnida (left) and Maureen Plazinski.

Seequa's 'Front Line'

Maureen Plazinski and Joy Hnida form Seequa's "front line." As the company's receptionists, Maureen and Joy answer hundreds of phone calls each day, greet visitors and employees, help facilitate outgoing and incoming mail and deliveries, and handle other responsibilities.

"It can get really hectic," said Maureen, between a flurry of phone calls. "Many of the thousands of calls Seequa receives each week come directly through our switchboard," she added.

Maureen, an Odenton resident, joined Seequa in September 1983. She and her husband Larry, a detective on the D.C. Police Department, have three children: Lori, 17, Mark, 16 and Lee, 10. In her spare time, Maureen is building a miniature doll house.

Maureen's partner on the "front line," Joy Hnida, is a lifelong Lake Shore (Anne Arundel County) resident. She and her husband Paul, a data systems analyst at the National Security Agency in Ft. Meade, have one daughter: Stephanie, 10. Joy came to Seequa in December 1983.

Joy, a graduate of Northeast Senior High in Pasadena, enjoys aerobics and is a Girl Scout volunteer in her spare time.

Tony Girard

Girard spins tunes at WPOC

"It's 8:10 on "Grassroots" here on WPOC. If you have a particular song you'd like to hear, call the "Grassroots" request line at 366-1212. And now, here's a tune from the new LP by the Johnson Mountain Boys."

If you've heard a disc jockey's voice over the WPOC airwaves recently and thought it sounded familiar, you were right. That clear, personable voice belongs to Seequa's own Tony Girard.

Tony, a line leader in the Mating Department, is the host of "Grassroots," a bluegrass show on WPOC 93.1 FM in Baltimore. The show airs each Sunday from 7 p.m. until midnight. Tony also does other weekend "fill-in" work at 'POC and deejays at parties and other events.

Tony enjoys hosting the "Grassroots" show, which he refers to as his "baby. I get to select the music I want to play. It's really a nice alternative to a normal job."

A Laurel resident, Tony has worked at other Baltimore radio stations including WFBR. He recalls an experience at WFBR when he accidentally played a bogus promotional tape that was filled with expletives. "As soon as that tape hit the air, I thought, "Oh God, I can kiss this job goodbye." I was right. I still have the letter they fired me with," Tony recalls.

When Tony began working at WPOC, he wasn't even a fan of country or bluegrass music. "Eventually, I just turned on to the stuff," he says. Now, artists such as Bill Monroe, Flatt and Scruggs, the Stanley Brothers and Jimmy Martin are among his favorites.

Tune into Tony any Sunday night on 93.1 FM WPOC. Maybe soon, you too will become a fan of the toe-tapping sounds of "Grassroots" and its host, Tony Girard.